

1966

February 10, 1966

The Athens-Clarke County Library Board met for a luncheon meeting at Holiday Inn on Thursday, February 10, 1966, at 1:00 p.m.

Present were: Mrs. F.H. Mendenhall, Mrs. Frank Dudley, Mrs. J.B. Neighbors, Mrs. Carlton James, Miss Natalie Boccock, B. Richard Bloodworth, Troutman Wilson, Thomas H. Milner, Jr., Mayor Julius Bishop, Hugh Logan, Chairman of the Clarke County Commissioners, Russell Bailey, Library Consultant and Architect, and Sarah Maret.

Following lunch the meeting was called to order by Chairman Mendenhall, who welcomed the the board members, the city and county officials, and Mr. Bailey, who had been employed to advise with the library officials about suitable housing for the Regional Library.

Mr. Bailey gave a report on the sites, he, Mrs. Neighbors and Miss Maret visited as possible locations for a library building. He pointed out that the present location of the library is excellent and that the library should remain in or near this spot if at all possible. His suggestion was that the property across College Avenue from the library, which was formerly occupied by the Georgia Power Company, would be an excellent location for the library and that a suitable building could be erected on it. Steps should be taken to acquire this property if possible. Discussing some of the places visited, he noted that the Henry Grady House on Prince Avenue had potentialities for a library, but that a great deal of work would have to be done to put this building in order.

Mayor Bishop told of the interest which the city has in purchasing the Henry Grady House and property and that the library might be considered when it came to the use of the house. He noted that several plans have been investigated but as yet no definite offer has been made to the owner. The board concurred that if this house became available, the library might well use it for a branch, provided the necessary repairs are made and financial assistance is provided. There was no other business. Meeting was adjourned.

*Sarah E. Maret*  
Secretary

April 26, 1966

The Athens-Clarke County Library Board met at the Regional Library on Tuesday afternoon, April 26, 1966 at 5 p.m.

Present were: Mrs. F.H.Mendenhall, Mrs. J.B.Neighbors, Marvin Perry, Richard Bloodworth Jr., Thomas H.Milner, Jr., Troutmen Wilson and Sarah Maret.

Chairman Mendenhall called the meeting to order. It was moved that the reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed with. Motion was seconded and carried.

The question of closing the Dunbar Branch Library due to the lack of interest on the part of the patrons for whom this library was organized was discussed at length. It was pointed out that the cost per book circulated was very high and that the library might seek a new location which would attract a larger portion of Athens population. It was brought out that the possibility of the library's getting the Henry Grady House soon was doubtful.

It was moved by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Milner that a committee be appointed to seek some solution to the Dunbar problem as well as to locate a suitable place for storage of library material. The Chairman appointed a committee composed of Mr. Wilson, Chairman, Mrs. Neighbors and Mr. Wier to work on this.

Mrs. Neighbors, Chairman of the Garden Committee, reported that on April 23 the Junior Ladies Garden Club planned to plant zoysa grass in the library garden.

Miss Maret reported that when the Presbyterian Church Educational building was painted the garden furniture was spotted with paint, but that the contractors had refinished the furniture and that it was very fresh now. She also reported that several pieces of shrubbery had been replaced and that other plants had been moved, thus helping the appearance of the front of the building as well as the garden.

Mr. Wilson reported that he had investigated the cost of adding blinds to the library building, but that it seemed impractical to do this as they were

not always satisfactory.

It was suggested that Mr. Wilson talk with Mr. Paul Hodgson, head of Urban Renewal, about a suitable place for the library to construct a building in the Urban Renewal area.

As Watkinsville has a new location for its library, the group agreed that it would be good to hold the next Regional Library Board meeting there.

Chairman Mendenhall reported that permission had been granted by the Presbyterian Church to use the new educational building for special library programs.

There was not other business. Meeting was adjourned.

*Laurel E. Mait*  
*Secretary*



September 29, 1966

The Athens Regional Library Board met at the Watkinsville Library in Oconee County on Thursday afternoon, September 29, 1966 at 5 p.m.

After a social hour, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. F. H. Mendenhall.

Those present were asked to introduce themselves. These were: Athens-Clarke County, Mrs. Mendenhall, Mr. T. H. Milner, Jr., Mrs. Frank Dudley, Marvin Perry, Miss Natalie Bocock, Miss Sarah Maret and Miss Ann Buxton; Oconee County, Mrs. R. H. Downs, Mr. Henry Ashford, Mr. Herman Michael, Mrs. Roland Harris, Mrs. Major Rice, Mrs. A. R. Saxon, Mrs. Grady Oaks, and Mrs. Albert Elder; Madison County, Mrs. Hiram Whitehead; Oglethorpe County, Mrs. W. G. Callaway and Hamilton McWhorter.

Minutes of the last two meetings were approved as read.

Discussion was held on the availability of the Henry Grady House in Athens as a branch library. It was reported that no offer has been made for the use of this property.

The proposed constitution for the region was read by the chairman of the constitution committee, Mr. Perry. This constitution was the same as the existing constitution with some minor changes in terms. It was the opinion of the board that a vote on the constitution should be withheld until the next meeting and that a copy should be made for each member of the board and mailed to them.

Reports were heard from the counties represented: Mrs. Downs, chairman of the Oconee County Board, told of the move of the Watkinsville Library to the quarters in which the meeting was being

held. She expressed thanks to the chairman of the Oconnee County Commissioners, Mr. Michael, for providing the new attractive quarters. She reported that a very successful reading club had been held in Watkinsville with 143 reading club certificates being issued. They would be given to the children during October. She also reported that the Bogart Library conducted a reading club and that 30 children completed the required reading.

Mrs. Callaway gave the report for Oglethorpe County. She said that the need for more space for the library in Lexington had been met by the library's move across the street from the Court House and occupying a store building. Attractive quarters for the library was the result. The building had been rented for one year, but she felt that the library would stay there for a long time. Mr. McWhorter reported that the board had decided not to apply for federal funds for a building, but that they hoped to secure sufficient local funds to build a library building at some future date. It was also reported that Lexington had 72 children complete the required reading for a certificate.

Mrs. Hiram Whitehead, representing Madison County, said that their library was in dire need of more space and that they hoped to work out something to secure this space. Fifty-six children completed the required reading and will receive certificates from the Danielsville Library.

Miss Buxton, bookmobile librarian, gave a report of the services of the bookmobile. She said that the bookmobile served 23 schools in the four-county area and that most of them had been visited this school year. She noted that some decline in

circulation of books at the schools had resulted from the schools having funds with which to purchase books of their own and that circulation of these books does not show in the bookmobile circulation. However, she said she felt that a greater use of books was being made in the schools. One hundred and thirty-seven children received certificates from the bookmobile.

Miss Maret said that 1,298 children received certificates for their summer reading. This was from all points of service of the library. She also reported that the library was again on the Canadian Travel Film circuit and that the library would have access to three films each two months. Brochures giving the names of the films were distributed to board members who were asked to encourage groups to borrow these films. Eight thousand dollars has been received from the state for the library's allotment for the year 1966-67. This is the same amount as was given last year.

A news article concerning service to the blind from the Library for the Blind was given to a representative of each local board and each was asked to have the article placed in their local newspaper.

It was pointed out that the bookmobile needed painting. Mr. Milner moved that the bookmobile be painted. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Saxon. Motion carried.

Mrs. Mendenhall expressed appreciation to the Oconee County Library Board for allowing the group to meet with them.

There was no other business. Meeting was adjourned.

*Rush E. Thant*  
*Secretary*



November 10, 1966

The Athens-Clarke County Library Board met at the Key to America Motor Inn for a luncheon meeting on Thursday, November 10, 1966 at 1:00 p.m.

Present for the meeting were: Mrs. F. H. Mendenhall, Troutmen Wilson, Mrs. J. B. Neighbors, Richard Bloodworth, W. W. Wier, Uly Gunn, Marvin Perry, Miss Natalie Bocock, Mrs. Frank Dudley, Hugh Logan, David Firor, Archie Patterson, Paul Hodgson and Miss Sarah Maret. Special guest for the meeting was Miss Lucile Nix of the State Department of Education.

The blessing was given by Richard Bloodworth.

After lunch, Chairman Mendenhall called the meeting to order and introduced those present. She then presented Miss Nix to the group.

Miss Nix gave a detailed report on the Federal Library Services and Construction Act which gives money to public libraries and which her office administers. She reported that funds were available from state and federal funds for construction of new buildings or for additions to existing buildings on a dollar for dollar basis. These funds have a priority pattern with regional library headquarters at the top of the list, followed by county headquarters in a single county system, then county buildings participating in a regional library and last for branch library buildings participating in a regional library system. Before applying for funds certain preliminary steps must be taken before any library may qualify for these monies. A library consultant, approved by the State Department of Education, must



be employed to plan a definite program and write it up to make good use of space. An architect must be secured to execute a building following these plans. The responsible body must have a clear title for a strategic and suitable site for the planned building.

Miss Nix said \$365,515.66 had been raised locally to match \$714,375 federal money during the first year of the program's operation. The total spent during the first year for library construction in Georgia was \$1,579,890.66.

During the second year, \$755,363.00 was raised from local funds; \$680,700.00 from federal funds; and \$193,475.00 was secured from Appalachia funds making the total spent during the second year \$1,629,538.00. Among the libraries benefitting from these funds were: Dalton, Tri-County Library (Rome), Camilla, Marietta, Jonesboro, Tifton, Savannah, Albany, Waycross, Pelham, Vidalia, Calhoun, Canton, Forsyth, Valdosta, Hinesville, Wrightsville and Carrolton.

Miss Nix reported that she had visited the main library during the morning and that she was in agreement with the recent grand jury report on the need for a more adequate facility in Athens. Needs for shelving space, seating space, study carrels and an auditorium were pointed out.

She reported that locally the money needed might be raised by a bond issue or gifts from interested persons, organizations or businesses.

During the current year Georgia may get between \$800,000 and \$850,000 federal funds and she said that this could make the maximum grants to libraries for the year 1966-67 raised from \$125,000 to \$150,000 or \$200,000.

Pictures of recent libraries constructed in Georgia were passed around the group.

Miss Nix said that the Henry Grady home is frankly not proper headquarters for the library. It would be good if the library could stay in the center of town. She pointed out that the lot <sup>er</sup>formally occupied by the Georgia Power Co. would be an excellent location provided enough parking space could be found. Here a building could be built which would allow for adequate supervision of the library's central area. This conserves on staff requirements. Also, it is good to concentrate new buildings in the down-town area since cities are attempting to draw people to this area and revitalize it.

Following Miss Nix's speech, the meeting was opened for general discussion.

Mr. Patterson, chairman of the grand jury committee, said the report as presented by his committee recognized the need for the library and that they had wished "to stir up the people" to also see this need.

When asked about the old post office building, Mr. Hodgson reported that the General Services Administration ~~owns~~<sup>owns</sup> this property and that it is earmarked for parking. When asked if the Georgia Power lot were available, he said that it was and that sealed bids would be received in 60 days from last Friday, (November 4, 1966) on the property.

It measures 19,000 square feet and includes the Salvation Army lot behind it. He noted that the <sup>minimum</sup> selling price was \$43,000, but that the library might get it for less than this amount. He also pointed out that the <sup>lot adjacent to</sup> A & P lot measured

44,000 square feet and that the <sup>minimum</sup> price for this lot was \$85,000. He said that regulations call for only 40% of the lot to be used for a building.

Mr. Logan, Chairman of the Clarke County Commissioners, said that he did not intend to make the headlines he had made recently and that he meant no offense to the Board about not asking for money for the library. He said that the library is near the top of the list in the plan of improvement for the county which includes plans for a bond election. He said that the county wanted only one bond election and that it should come within three to six months.

Mr. Wilson asked if money would be available for furnishings for the library. Miss Nix said it would be if it were a part of the building, such as shelving.

When asked how much might be available in Federal Funds for Athens, Miss Nix said that she was attending a meeting very soon in Washington and at that time she would be able to give the maximum amount available. It could be as much as \$175,000. When asked about floor space, she said that a study would have to be made of the needs of the library and that if these needs could not be met all at one time, they might be worked out in different phases of construction, with top priority being given to those things most needed. No amount of money should be set until the program is written for the library by a library consultant. However, she felt that 19,000 to 20,000 square feet would be needed for the facility.

Mr. Wilson moved that a library consultant be employed immediately and that the officers be allowed to make financial

arrangements with this person in order to move ahead with this program. Motion was seconded by Mr. Wier. Motion carried.

Miss Nix suggested that the person employed study the needs of the community, consult with the Chamber of Commerce about future growth and suggest at least three suitable locations for the library. She also suggested that some of the board try to visit new libraries in nearby places so they might see what is being done.

The chairman expressed appreciation to Miss Nix and to the others who attended the meeting and said that she felt that this was a very good meeting.

Dan C. Hunt  
Secretary



December 8, 1966

The Athens Regional Library Board met at the Regional Library on Thursday afternoon, December 8, 1966. The following members were present: Clark County, Mrs. F.H. Mendenhall, Marin Perry, W.W. Wier, Mrs. Carlton James, T.H. Milner, Jr., and Troutman Wilson; Madison County, Mrs. Calvin Langford; Oglethorpe County, Mrs. W.G. Callaway and Hamilton McWhorter. No representative from Oconee County was present. Also present was Miss Sarah Maret.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mendenhall who welcomed the members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Minutes were approved as read.

Miss Maret reported that the article offering service to the blind by the Regional Library had appeared in the two Athens papers. Mr. McWhorter said he had given the article to the Oglethorpe Echo and the editor said that he would place it in the paper just as soon as he had the space.

It was reported by Miss Maret that the bookmobile had been painted by Carney's Body and Paint shop and that it had improved the looks of the unit as well as protecting it from rust.

Reports of committees were given. Mr. Perry, Chairman of the Constitution Committee, presented the revised Constitution for the board's consideration. It was moved by Mr. Milner that the Constitution be adopted. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports were called for from the representatives of the counties present. Mrs. Langford, reporting for Madison county, said that their board had been inactive for some time and that she felt that the board needed reactivation and some new members added. This was discussed and the aid of the Regional Board was offered to help in any way it could. Both Mrs. Callaway and Mr. McWhorter reported for Oglethorpe County. Mr. McWhorter told of the way in which Oglethorpe County's Library Board had been dissolved and reappointed by the Board of Education giving the Library Board a more substantial legal basis. Speaking for Clarke County, Mr. Wilson, Chairman of the Expansion Committee, reviewed the recent publicity which had been given the Regional Library resulting from the grand jury report citing the building needs of the library. He said that a library consultant, Miss Jean Cochran of Augusta, had been employed to write a program giving the needs of the library with recommendations which could be presented to the Clarke County Commissioners.

The Library Director reported that Mrs. Dave Paddock had participated in a puppet program on Station WGTV in November and that if she were accepted for a series of puppet shows she would like for the Regional Library to sponsor it. The cost involved would be the salary paid Mrs. Paddock. It was moved that the officers of the board and the Library Director be authorized to act if the opportunity were given to Mrs. Paddock to have the show.

It was pointed out that the library was in need of a file for branch library cards. A bid of \$444.25 had been received from Ivan Allen to furnish the file. Mr. Milner asked that the Director consider a surplus file which the bank has to see if it might be satisfactory for the library's needs. It was moved by Mr. Wilson that the Chairman and the Director be authorized to buy a file, if necessary. Motion seconded by Mr. Wier. Motion carried.

A book, the Cobb Homes of Athens presented to the library by Mr. Jasper Dorsey of Washington, D. C., was passed for the group to see.

The treasurer, Mr. Milner, presented the budget for 1967. Mr. Milner moved that the budget be adopted as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Wilson that a salary supplement be given to the members of the staff and that the Chairman and Director be authorized to decide the amount to be given. Motion was seconded by Mr. Perry. Motion carried.

Mr. Wier, Chairman of the nominating committee presented the following slate of officers to be elected for a two-year term:

Chairman - Mrs. F. H. Mendenhall  
Vice-Chairman - Troutman Wilson  
Treasurer - Thomas H. Milner, Jr.

It was moved by Mr. Wier that the officers be elected as presented. Motion seconded by Mrs. Langford. Motion carried. Serving on the committee with Mr. Wier were Mrs. Hussey Downs and Miss Natalie Boccock.

There was no other business. Meeting was adjourned.

*David E. Thurst*  
*Secretary*